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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.  
Dated: February 20, 2004 Signature: *Cheryl Price*  
(Cheryl Price)

Docket No.: 393032028600  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Hironari KOBAYASHI

Application No.: 09/976,818

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: October 12, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: AUDIO DATA  
RECORDING/REPRODUCING  
APPARATUS AND METHOD

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FEB 27 2004

Technology Center 2100

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, Applicant(s) hereby make of record the following additional documents. A PTO Form 1449 and a full copy of each of these documents accompany this statement.

Applicant(s) have become aware of the following documents, cited in an International Search Report issued November 25, 2003, during the prosecution of international application no. P2000-317728, which corresponds to the above referenced application, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and (e)(1) or (b)(3), hereby submit(s) these documents for the Examiner's consideration. These documents are cited on the enclosed PTO Form 1449, and a copy of the Notice of Grounds for Rejection and each document cited thereon are enclosed as well.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited documents are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any document herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such

document is prior art. Moreover, Applicant(s) understand(s) the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited documents.

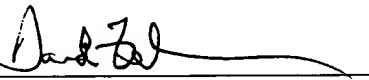
This Supplemental Information Disclosure is submitted within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 03-1952, under Order No. 393032028600. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

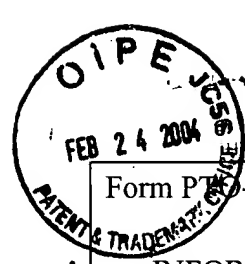
Dated: February 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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|   |                                   |                                |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Form PTO/SB-1449<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION<br/>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number: 39303.20268.00     | Application Number: 09/976,818 |
|   | Applicant<br><br><b>Kobayashi</b> |                                |
|   | Filing Date October 12, 2001      | Group Art Unit Not Assigned    |
|   | Mailing Date February 20, 2004    |                                |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials | Ref.<br>No. | Date     | Document No. | Name         | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If<br>Appropriate |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                      | 1.          | 01/30/01 | 6,181,870    | Okada et al. |       |          |                               |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials | Ref.<br>No. | Date     | Document No. | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation<br>YES NO |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|
|                      | 2.          | 07/09/99 | JP11187354   | Japan   |       |          | Abstract<br>Only      |
|                      | 3.          | 07/16/96 | JP8185675    | Japan   |       |          | Abstract<br>Only      |
|                      | 4.          | 11/29/96 | JP8315551    | Japan   |       |          | X                     |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| Examiner<br>Initials | Ref.<br>No. | Title |
|----------------------|-------------|-------|
|                      |             |       |

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EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.